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# Gazette Times

VOL. 129 NO. 22 12 Pages Wednesday, May 26, 2010 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

# Health district approved for USDA loan to purchase CT scan; district sees $53 thousand monthly gain

**By April Sykes**

Morrow County Health District Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board, at their Monday night meeting in Heppner, that the district has been approved for a USDA Rural Development loan for the purchase of a CT scanner for Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Columbia Basin Electric Co-op served as the applicant and intermediary in the loan process.

According to Mahoney, USDA will loan 80 percent of the $450,000 required toward purchase and installation of the scanner, with the district responsible for contributing the other 20 percent, up to $90,000. Mahoney said that the district had planned to apply for Morrow County tippage fund monies to go toward the district's required 20 percent, but since those tippage monies were no longer available, the district will need to find other sources. She said that a previous scanner bid of $420,458 may have to be updated, since it was provided a while ago. The cost also included funds for modification of the room to house the new scanner, preparation for installation and removing the old scanner.

The terms of $360,000 USDA loan are five years at zero percent.

Mahoney also reported that the district had a $53 thousand gain for April. The district had $580,818 in gross patient revenue with $78,024 in revenue deductions, $95,521 in tax revenue and $28,010 in other operating revenue for $626,325 in total operating revenue. On the expense side, the district had $583,685 in total operating expenses, a $42,639 gain from operations and an $11,005 non-operating gain for the $53, 645 gain for the month.

CEO Michael Blauer told the board that the district has received $20,000 from Pacific Source insurance company and $2,500 from Providence which will go toward establishing a community outreach program. Blauer said that Andrea Fletcher has been working to organize the program.

Blauer also said that he is making progress in seeking a company to provide electronic records for the district. He said that he had been in contact with two companies that provide that service and Shawn Cutsforth, the district's information systems manager, is also working toward that goal.

Director of Nursing Services Molly Rhea told the board that she had attended a nurse's workshop on trauma that resulted from lack of use of helmets and seatbelts. Rhea said that the program was geared to be taken into the schools and she had already scheduled two programs on seatbelt and helmet safety at Heppner Elementary School before the end of the school year. She said she hoped to schedule a program at the high school, but was running out of time before school ends, so plans to schedule programs during the next school year. She commented that although it was very graphic, she was very excited about workshop she had attended. "I think it was a life changing day," she said.

In other business, the board:

-approved the 2010-11 budget;

-received the following report for the month of April:

- Pioneer Memorial Hospital had nine admissions, one admission for the swing nursing facility, nine admitted for observation; 451 total outpatients, 46 total emergency room encounters, 1,673 lab tests, 99 x-ray procedures, 18 CT scans, 19 EKG tests, one treadmill procedure, four colonoscopy procedures, two endoscopy procedures, 30 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 504 patient visits, 23 new patients, 50 seen by a nurse and 11 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 180 patient visits, 14 new patients, 24 seen by a nurse and 15 no-shows; Home Health had 141 patient visits; pharmacy had 2118 drug doses for $56,024 in drug revenue; Heppner Ambulance had 20 total page-outs and 16 transports for $19,845 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 28 page-outs with 20 transports for $44,873 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 20 transports for $$20,320 in revenue; there was one flight.

# Osmin set to retire from BEO

After 26 years working with the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Donna Osmin is set to retire on May 28.

**Donna Osmin**

Born in Klamath Falls, Osmin spent most of her childhood years in Merrill and graduated from high school in Madras. She attended Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls and later graduated from Northwest Business College in Portland.

In 1966 Osmin went to work at the Federal Reserve Bank in Portland for two years. She then moved to Heppner and worked at First National Bank for two years. She married Al Osmin and transferred to Pendleton First National Bank where she worked for a year. The couple then moved back Heppner where she worked half-time for four years. Osmin then took up working from home, keeping books for different businesses in town. She later went back to work full-time at Bank of Eastern Oregon.

When Osmin began working at Bank of Eastern Oregon, she started in proofing and worked her way up through payroll and accounts payable to human resources until she began working part-time. For the last few years she has been working in purchasing and statements.

"The bank has been a wonderful place to work for the last 26 years," said Osmin. "I will miss all my co-workers a lot."

Donna and Al have two sons, Jess and his wife Staci of Heppner and Rick and his wife Amy of Hermiston. She is looking forward to spending more time with her seven grandkids: Emma, Shayna, Kael, Tanna, Alex, Ellie and Owen.

After retiring Osmin plans on spending more time with her mom, Velma (Granny) Felt who is at the Willow Creek Terrace, workin on her yard and garden, and traveling.

# Morrow County budget down from previous year; cost of personal services up

**By April Sykes**

The Morrow County Court will meet on June 2 to at the Port of Morrow offices in Boardman to discuss a $26 million-plus budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The upcoming year's budget is down around a half a million over the previous year's budget. Last year's budget was $27,031,816. This year's is $26,543,623.

Morrow County Finance director Fred Carlson told the Gazette-Times that the reduction is primarily due to a reduction in grant monies, such as CSEPP funding that the county receives. He said the county will receive less in CSEPP funds as the CSEPP program is being phased out. The budget details a drop in the county's CSEPP resources from $4,991,765 to $4,306,000.

Total personal services are up $224,546 from $7,439,181 in 2009-10 to $7,663,727. Personal services costs in the general fund are up over $93 thousand to $5,018,947 from $4,925,603 last year. Carlson said that county personal services costs are based on three union contracts-a general employee contract and a road employee contract, both of which are seeing three percent raises for the coming year, and a sheriff's department employee contract, which is currently in negotiations.

He said that the county's contribution to the employees' pension fund is also going up based on the value of investments. For example, when interest rates go down, the value of the county's investments goes down and the county has to pay more into the pension fund. Carlson said that the county has is own retirement plan and does not go through PERS. He said that for the last several years, the county's investments have been better than PERS, however, the county is required to maintain a retirement plan as good or better than PERS.

Total materials and supplies is down from $11,949,340 in '09-10 to $11,864,892 in the upcoming budget.

Total taxes to be levied is up slightly from $5,528,748 for the current year to $5,542,629

An issue of concern for local communities is that the county's needs and issues fund was not funded for the upcoming year. In previous years the county has opened up funding requests for special projects or organizations within the county. This year, the county will not award needs and issues grants. The fund comes from garbage tippage fees (Finley Buttes License fees). While the tippage license fee income amount has stayed fairly consistent over the past three years, from $760,000 in 2008-09 to $906,000 in 2009-10 to $861,500 in 2010-11, the amount of unappropriated reserve in the license fee fund has been spent down. In 2008-09, the amount of unappropriated reserve to start off the 2009-10 year was $892,986. This year Carlson says that only $117,500 is expected to be available to start off 2010-11.

Total resources for the Finley Buttes fund, except for property taxes were $2,079,901 in '08-'09; $1,552,000 in '09-10; and $1,113,100 in 10-11.

Other budget information is as follows:

According to budget documents, the amount for total personal services (salaries, wages, etc.) expenditures by department are as follows:

**-County Court-** $307,485, up from $283,868;

**-Accounting-** $227,082, up from $206,277;

**-Assessor/Tax Collector-**$450,158, up from $433,649;

**-Treasurer-** $88,303, down from $89,779;

**-County Clerk-** $209,503, up from $197,290;

**-Veterans' Services-**$16,615, down from $20,090;

**-Board of Property Tax Appeal-**$1,463, up from $1,406;

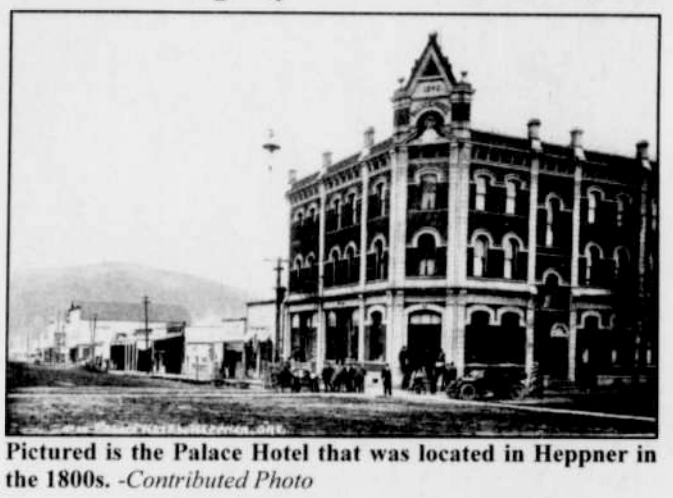
**-Tax Administrator-**$87,526, up from $83,437;

**-Justice Court-** $166.405, up from $162,183;

**-District Attorney-**$201,019, up from

*-See BUDGET/Page SEVEN*

# Historical play to be held in June



**Pictured is the Palace Hotel that was located in Heppner in the 1800s.** *-Contributed Photo*

"All roads lead to the Palace!" This was true, according to the advertisement in the Heppner Gazette Times in 1891, and with a small modification, it will be true on June 12, when "all roads in the Willow Creek Valley will lead to our reproduction of the Palace Hotel." So report Sharon Harrison and Doris Brosnan, producers of the Dinner-at-the-Cemetery Players' historical plays.

"The Palace" takes place in the dining room, the lobby, and the bar of the establishment. "Because of the bar scenes, though they are mild," report the producers, "this year's play would probably be stamped 'PG' by a rating committee. But the bar is where some of the history took place."

This year's production will enact some of the 27-year history of Heppner's fine hotel meant to rival accommodations in any other American city. Bringing these "mostly comedic" glimpses to the stage: the players' veteran actors Bill Kuhn, Lea Mathieu, Janet Greenup, Larry Lutcher, Steve Rhea, Marty Brannon, Nancy Gochnauer, Keith Price, Brian Kollman, Tim Dickenson, Cara Osmin, Dan Van Schoiack, Joe Lindsay, Zecharia Hintz, and Kane Sweeney; and newcomers Larry Palmer, Ron Bowman, Sheridan Tarnasky, Brooke Sweeney, Daye Stone, Gerry Condon, Dean Antonucci, Gary Propheter, Cam Sweeney, Jason Hanna, and Tresslyn McCurry. The dulcet tones of Jack Meligan will provide historical narration.

Enhancing this year's event will be crosses placed in the Heppner Cemetery to mark the gravesites of many figures depicted in the play. The producers, with assistance from friends and Mr. Rice, the sexton, expect to locate over forty sites to designate. "We hope the weather is pleasant during the 'Celebrate Heppner' weekend, so people will decide to stroll the cemetery and visit the resting places of these individuals who once strolled the streets of Heppner," explains Harrison. Many of the family names represented or mentioned in "The Palace" and found in the cemetery remain familiar to some of the town's citizenry: Hughes, Kilkenny, Walker, Carty, French, Cason, Matlock, Morrow, Gilliam, Jones, Anderson, Rhea, Dougherty, Huston, Slocum. The white crosses will be in place by Friday, June 11, and remain until after Sunday, June 13.

Seating in "the dining room of the Palace Hotel" is limited to 120. The $10 tickets for the dessert-theatre are on sale at Murray Drugs, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Community Bank, and Heppner TV. Questions about the production may be addressed to Harrison, 541-989-8496, or Brosnan, 541-676-5382.

# Gazette-Times to publish "Congratulations Seniors" pages

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be publishing its annual "Congratulations Seniors" pages in the June 2 edition. Anyone who would like to have their name added to the pages should contact the Gazette-Times at 541-676-9228 or send an email to megan@rapidserve.net. The cost is $10.

The deadline to include your name is May 28 by 5 p.m.

# Gazette-Times closed on Memorial Day

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Deadlines for the June 2 edition will be Friday, May 28, at 5 p.m.

AT MCGG GREEN FEED & SEED IN HEPPNER:

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